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SINO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT DEFENDED

The Soviet government does not expect to seize one inch of foreign soil. The Soviet Union firmly resists actions that enslave or degrade other races. The Soviet Union approves real cooperation with all nations whether they belong to the East or West. Therefore, as soon as the political authority of the Soviet Union was established, the Soviet government canceled all unequal treaties made by Tsarist Russia with other countries. This is not at all strange. After canceling all unequal treaties and agreements with China who was opposed by the imperialist powers, notably Britain and the US, the Soviet Union established normal diplomatic relations with China in 1924.

The Sino-Soviet treaty was significant not only for establishing friendship between the two nations but also for increasing national self-consciousness of the Chinese people. The treaty concluded, moreover, was based on the principle of equality and was far different from those made by the imperialist nations with China.

Everyone knows that the unequal treaties were canceled by the imperialist nations in name only during World War II. In place of the old ones, there appeared a new series of unequal treaties and agreements. For example, on 4 November 1946, the KMT government and the US signed a commercial treaty by which the US acquired control of South China's rivers and harbors as well as communications rights in China in direct violation of China's sovereignty. The Americans claim that this agreement was made on the base of the so-called "open door" or "equality of opportunity" principle. Although the "equality of opportunity" principle nominally assigns certain rights to China, the Chinese in America have not been given equal opportunity. Under these conditions, one can see that the so-called "equality of opportunity" principle of the US imperialists has become an insult to the Chinese people and is leading the American capitalists to enslave China.

The friendly relations between the Soviet Union and China were best explained by Chu Te, Commander-in-Chief of the People's Liberation Army, as follows:

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"The experience of 32 years has proved that the Soviet Union is the closest and most dependable friend of the Chinese people. After the success of the October Revolution, the Soviet Union canceled all unequal treaties which Tsarist Russia made with China."

The signing of the nonaggression pact by the Soviet Union and China in 1937 helped greatly in China's resistance against the Japanese imperialists. It relieved the Chinese from worrying about the Sino-Soviet border and helped to boost the morale of the Chinese people.

World War II saw the Soviet armed might crush the fascist elements in Europe to free the Europeans from enslavement. On 8 August 1945, the Soviet Union, to keep her pledge to the Allies and to lighten the burden of the Chinese people, declared war against Japan. The Soviet Army saved the inhabitants of Manchuria and Korea from Japanese enslavement and forever dispelled the threat of Japanese invasion of the Chinese mainland. We, the Chinese people, will never forget the debt that we owe the people of the Soviet Union. The great achievements of the Soviet military forces will live forever.

The signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance on 14 August 1945 opened an important new era in Sino-Soviet relations. The point of that treaty was to preclude a resurgence of Japanese imperialistic aggression. This treaty was made during the common struggle of the two peoples against Japan. Nevertheless, in the 4 years since its signing and the defeat of Japan, its significance has not lessened, but on the contrary, has grown.

Japanese imperialism, defeated in 1945, has again become active through the support of American imperialists. Munition factories, new airfields, naval bases, strategic military highways, etc., are now being restored or rebuilt in Japan. Military training has been revived, and the police force which is actually a secret military organization is being augmented. Japanese militarists are anxiously waiting to renew their plans for territorial expansion in China and the Soviet Far East.

The present growth of liberation movements among the people of China, Viet Nam, South Korea, and the Philippines has greatly upset the position of US imperialism in the Far East. American expansionists, with an eye to these movements, are very anxious to transform Japan to serve their own military purposes as a strategic outpost; they are planning to use the Japanese military personnel as special police to suppress the national liberation movements which are springing up throughout the Pacific area.

Undoubtedly, the Japanese imperialists and the American expansionists who sponsor them are destined to fail in their renewed plans for seizing territory. The enduring friendship between the two great peoples of China and the Soviet Union guarantees the failure of this plan. Last year, the imperialists tried again and again to destroy the union between the Chinese and Soviet peoples, but each effort failed completely.

Today, the two peoples remember with feelings of deep satisfaction the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship and Alliance. The founding of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association will afford us further strengthening of cultural ties with the Soviet Union. At the end of July 1949, the Soviet government made a commercial agreement with the Northeast People's Government.

These actions further cement the cultural and economic ties between the two nations. Their peoples well know that only a firm and genuine friendship and a sincere observance of treaties and agreements can preserve the security and peace of the Far East.

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